

SUMMER SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT WILL RAISE RIFPLES OF LAUGHTER.

A Phenomenon—Their Delicate Sense of Touch—Senside Music—Men With the Pig—A Romance.

"Well, my son, when you know a certain thing ought to happen, but the reverse actually does happen, that is a phenomenon."

Their Delicate Sense of Touch. They were in the grocery store. Said Brown (seeing a blind man about to enter): "Were you aware how delicate the touch of a blind man is?"

The blind man having entered, he was put to the test. He put his thumb and finger into the scoop, and without hesitation said: "That is sand."

Senside Music. Guest—"I did not know you had a band here."

Landlord—"Oh, yes, I have one every season." Guest—"How often do they play?"

The Men With the Pig. A few days ago two men, who were afterward found to be Detroiters, arrived in a town about fifty miles to the west of this, leading a pig.

"Be awful careful with that pig. He's a daisy—a new breed just from Scotland. We've sold him to a farmer out here for \$50, and we don't want anything to happen to him."

"I've twigged the racket; them two fellows are sharpers and that's a guessing pig. To-morrow they will give you a chance to guess at his weight at ten cents a guess, and you'll be cleaned out—only you won't."

"Nobdy slept until the pig was taken over the scales and weighed. He pulled down 170 pounds to a hair, and the villagers went home and hunted up their nickels and dreamed of pigs and scales and sharpers through the remainder of the night."

"Gentlemen, I'm going to weigh this pig directly. Maybe some of you would like to guess on his weight? I'll take all guesses at ten cents each, and whoever hits it gets fifty cents."

"This provoked a large and selected stock of winks and smiles, but no one walked up until the pig man said that any one person could guess as many times as he cared to, provided a dime accompanied each guess. Then a rush set in. Three or four merchants put up fifty guesses each. A justice of the peace took thirty. A lawyer said about twenty would do for him. Before there was any let up in the guessing about 800 had been registered and paid for. Every soul of ten guessed at 170 pounds. It was curious what unanimity there was in the guessing, but the pig man didn't seem to notice it. When all had been given a chance the pig was led to the scales, and lo! his weight was exactly 174 pounds!"

"You see, gentlemen," explained the spokesman, "while this animal only weighs 170 pounds along about 11 o'clock at night, we feed him about five pounds of corn meal in the morning before weighing! You forgot to take this matter into consideration!"

A Romance. "Oh, Maurice," said a Clifton girl to her lover, "did you know papa had bought a new dog?"

"No, darling," he replied, with a slight two-stop tremor in his voice. "He has, Maurice, and he knows so many tricks, too."

"Your papa or the dog, darling?" he inquired, in an abstracted manner. "The dog, of course, naughty boy," she answered, playfully tapping him on his chest protector with the middle finger of her lily white hand.

WALKING IN THEIR SLEEP.

SOME REMARKABLE BREAKS OF SOMNAMBULISTS.

A German Who Writes Poetry in His Sleep—Curious Case of an Italian Nobleman.

A story is told of a German student—a somnambulist—who on one occasion arose from his sleep and wrote some verses on a subject which he had vainly wrestled with when awake.

"There are," was the reply. There is a case on record of a man at Milledgeville who used to arise in his sleep and go out on the roof of his house and walk along where it would have been utterly impossible for him to have stood had he been awake.

"What is somnambulism?" "I don't know. The somnambulist seems to dream, and to have the power to act that a sleeping man has not. Some of them relate as dreams what they do when they take these night walks. There is a story told of a young nobleman in the city of Brestein who was observed by his brother to rise in his sleep, put on his cloak, and, having opened the casement, to mount by the help of a pulley to the roof of the building. There he was seen to tear in pieces a magpie's nest and wrap the young birds in his cloak. He returned to his apartment, having placed his cloak by him with the birds in it. In the morning he awoke and related the adventure as having occurred in a dream, and was greatly surprised when he was led to the roof of the tower and shown the demolished nest, as well as the magpies concealed in his cloak."

"Do somnambulists always go with their eyes open?" "They usually do. I have noticed that actresses who play 'Lady Macbeth' all accept that idea. Did you never see a woman in the sleep-walking scene in 'Lady Macbeth'?"

The reporter remarked that he had been quite horrified on more than one occasion as a pair of glassy eyes stared vacantly over the footlights.

"Those eyes in the real somnambulist cannot see. They look, but they do not see; they have ears, and hear not."

One of the most interesting cases is reported by Muratori. Says he: "Signor Augustin was an Italian nobleman, dark, thin, melancholy and cold-blooded, addicted to the study of the abstract sciences. His attacks occurred at the waning of the moon, and were stronger in autumn and winter than in summer. An eye-witness gives the following description of them: "One evening toward the end of October we played at various games after dinner. Signor Augustin took a part in them along with the rest of the company, and afterward retired to repose. At 11 o'clock his servant told us that his master would walk that night, and that we might come and watch him. I examined him after some time with a candle in my hand. He was lying upon his back, and sleeping with open, staring, unmoved eyes. We were told that this was a sure sign that he would walk in his sleep. I felt his hands and found them extremely cold, and his pulse beat so slowly that his blood seemed not to circulate. It was about midnight when Signor Augustin drew aside the bed curtains with violence, arose, and put on his clothes. I went up to him and held the light under his eyes. He took no notice of it, although his eyes were wide open and staring. He fastened on his sword and warmed himself in an arm-chair by the fire. He went to his wardrobe, took out some things, got others disarranged, put them in order again, locked the door, and put the key in his pocket. He then went into a court and caught and bridled his horse. He appeared confused when he did not find the saddle in its accustomed place, but finally mounted the horse and rode to another side of the court and tied his horse. From there he went into the house and walked into a parlor, where he played several airs on a harpsichord. After moving about for two hours he went to his room and threw himself on his bed, where he slept nine or ten hours. The servants declared that they could only put an end to his proxyms by tickling him under the soles of his feet, or by blowing a trumpet in his ears."

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THE PET CROCODILE.

When Herodotus was in Egypt about 450 years before the Christian era, the following was the way in which this formidable reptile was taken prisoner:

"There are many ways of catching crocodiles in Egypt, but the following seems to be the most successful. The huntsman puts the chins of a pig on a bait on a hook, and lets it down into the river. In the meantime he takes his station on the bank, holding a young pig, which he beats in order to make it squeal out. The crocodile, on hearing this, makes toward the sound, but meeting with the bait on his way, he swallows it down. Then the man begins to pull, and after he is fairly hauled out on dry land, the first thing the huntsman does is to plaster the crocodile's eyes up with mud. If he can succeed in doing this there is no difficulty in managing the beast; otherwise it is a very troublesome affair."

The different treatment which this monster received in different parts of ancient Egypt is curious, and not very easily accounted for. In the southern parts, near the cataracts, the crocodile was an article of food, but probably only with a particular caste, as in Dongola at the present day. In other parts, as the Thebes and near the great Lake Keroum, it was fashionable to have a pet crocodile, who was fed daintily and treated with great respect. "They put," said Herodotus, "pendants of glass and gold in their ears, and rings round their fore-legs; they also give them a regular allowance of bread and meat, and take all possible care of them while alive. When they die the Egyptians embalm them and put them in sacred sepulchres." Fortunately for the credit of Herodotus, a mummy of a crocodile has been found with his ears pierced for pendants, which fact is particularly mentioned by M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire.

Strabo tells an odd story of a crocodile which he saw when he visited Egypt, somewhat more than 400 years after the visit of Herodotus. "In this district they honor the crocodile very much, and they have a sacred one which lives in the lake by itself, and is quite tame to the priests. He is called Suchus, and is fed with bread, and meat, and wine, which he gets from strangers who come to see him. Our host, who was a person of importance in the place, accompanied us to the lake, taking with him from the table a small cake, some roasted meat, and a little cup of some sweet liquor. We found the crocodile lying on the margin of the lake. The priests went up to him, and while some opened his mouth, another crammed into it, first the cake, then the meat, and last of all, poured the drink down his throat. The crocodile, after this treat, jumped into the lake and swam over to the other side.—Eye.

A Billion. What is a billion? In the French system of notation, which is also used in the United States, it is a thousand millions; but the English system gives the name billion to a million millions. Sir Henry Bessemer, the famous inventor, who is in the habit of occupying his leisure with curious calculations for the amusement of his grandchildren, tried to convey some idea of the immensity expressed in this little word. He took it successively as a measure of time, of length and of height. Selecting the second as the unit to be used in his first calculation, he began with the startling assertion that a billion seconds have not yet elapsed since the commencement of the Christian era—nor, indeed, even a sixteenth part of that number. A billion seconds make 31,687 years, seventeen days, twenty-two hours, forty-five minutes, five seconds. In regard to length, he chose for his unit the English sovereign, a coin of the size of a half-eagle. A chain of a billion sovereigns would be long enough to pass 763 times around the globe; or supposing all these coins lay side by side, each in contact with its neighbor, it would form about the earth a golden zone fifty-six feet six inches wide. This same chain, were it stretched out straight, would make a line a fraction over 18,328,445 miles in extent. For measuring height, Sir Henry chose for a unit a single sheet of such paper as that upon which the London Times is printed—a measure of about 1-333 of an inch in thickness. A billion of these thin sheets pressed out flat and piled vertically upon each other would attain the altitude of 47,348 miles. If any one doubts the correctness of these calculations he may go to work and figure the thing out for himself.

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